

Claims

1. Method to estimate light sources in a common support space comprising at least one visual data set respectively associated with at least 5 one individual support space having a position in the common support space, a dimension and a size,

wherein the position of the light sources is determined according to the position, the dimension and the size of the individual support space associated with said at least one visual data set and in that said light sources 10 have a color distribution that is determined according to said at least one visual data set.

2. Method according to claim 1 wherein for each of said visual data sets :

- 15 - one determines the number N of light sources,
- one determines the position of the N light sources, and
- one determines the intensity of each light source.

3. Method according to claim 1 wherein the number N of light 20 sources is derived automatically from the size of the individual support space associated with the considered visual data set.

4. Method according to claim 1 wherein the position of the light sources depends on former positions of the light sources when at least one of 25 said visual data sets is dynamic.

5. Method according to any of claim 1 wherein the spatial color distribution of at least one of the light sources is determined from a filtering function of the visual data set for said light source in a spatial and/or temporal 30 neighborhood of the light source position.

6. Method to generate mutual photometric effects in a common support space between a plurality of visual data sets respectively associated

with individual support spaces, in which one positions the visual data sets in a common support space

wherein :

- one estimates light sources for each of said visual data sets, and

5 - one applies estimated light source information derived from said estimated light sources for at least a first of said visual data sets to at least a second of said visual data sets so that the first visual data set illuminates the second visual data set.

10 7. Method according to claim 6 wherein, before applying said estimated light source information derived from said estimated light sources for said first visual data set to said second visual data set, one moves at least one of said light sources out of the individual support space associated with said first visual data set.

15 8. Method according to claim 6 wherein the estimation of the different light sources for the plurality of data sets is done according to the method of claim 1.

20 9. Device to estimate light sources in a common support space comprising at least one visual data set respectively associated with at least one individual support space having a position in the common support space, a dimension and a size,

25 wherein said device is intended to determine the position of the light sources for each of said visual data sets according to the position, the dimension and the size of the individual support space associated with said visual data set and to provide a color distribution for said light sources that is determined according to said visual data set

30 said device being preferably provided for putting in practice the method according to claim 1.

10. Device according to claim 9 wherein it comprises :

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- 5 - means to determine the number N of light sources for each of said visual data sets,
- means to determine the position of the N light sources, and
- means to determine the spatial intensity and color distribution of each of said light sources.

11. Device to generate mutual photometric effects in a common support space between a plurality of visual data sets respectively associated with individual support spaces, comprising means for positioning the visual
10 data sets in a common support space and wherein said device comprises :

- 15 - means for estimating light sources for each of said visual data sets, and
- means for applying estimated light source information derived from said estimated light sources for at least a first of said visual data sets to
15 at least a second of said visual data sets so that the first visual data set illuminates the second visual data set.
 said device being preferably provided for putting in practice the method according to claim 6.

20 12. Device according to claim 11 wherein the means for estimating the different light sources emitted by the plurality of data sets are able to determine the position of the light sources for each of said visual data set according to the position, the dimension and the size of the individual support space associated with said visual data set and to determine the color
25 distribution of said light sources according to said visual data set.

- 30 13. Audiovisual terminal comprising
- means for receiving a first visual data set,
- means for requesting the display of at least a second data set cooperating with the first data set,
- means (2) for indicating the position of the at least second data set on the display,
- means for generating photometric effects, and

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- means for displaying said visual data sets and modifying them according to the generated photometric effects,

wherein said means for generating photometric effects comprise a
5 generating device according to claim 11, and preferably also an estimating
device according to claim 9.